

Green Zones Program Advisory Committee Kick-Off Meeting

July 5, 2016, 1 pm – 3 pm
320 W. Temple Street Room 170
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attendance

DPW: Max Rodriguez, Matthew Dubiel, Tim Smith, Luke Mitchell
DCBA: Joel Ayala, Caroline Torosis, Wason Fu
Fire: Teresa Quiaoit
DTSC: Roger Kintz
LARWQCB: Susana Lagudis
DRP: Soyeon Choi, Dan Hoffman, Kristen Holdsworth, Connie Chung

1. Introduction

- a. Green Zones Program was initiated by the Board motion to address environmental justice from land use perspective (proximity & cumulative impact). Due to the nature of the issue, interdepartmental collaboration is critical in closing some gaps within regulatory and procedural framework.
- b. Objective of the committee is to have open discussions about gaps, issues, and opportunities around our expertise to address EJ.
 - i. Monthly working meeting for next 5-6 months
 - ii. Will reconvene afterwards as needed.
 - iii. A separate stakeholder group will meet bi-monthly and all of the members in this committee are welcome to join those meetings.

2. Concurrent efforts

- a. Equity Scorecard – tools to implement the general plan more equitable way by assessing the current conditions of various equity factors.
- b. Toxic Threat Strike Team – Led by DPH to bring large permitted industrial facilities into compliance.
- c. Oil & Gas Strike Team – Led by DRP to assess oil and gas facilities as well as current regulation/procedural requirements pertinent to those uses. Still at an early stage. Will keep the group updated of any progress.
- d. Board Reports
 - i. Treasure and Tax Collector (Business License & Registration)
 1. Proposed an addition of business registration for all non-licensed businesses.
 2. References Title 7 update, which is a separate effort.
 - ii. Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (Small Business Initiatives)
 1. Small Business Initiatives originated from minimum wage enforcement to provide support for small businesses.
 2. Provide consultation on permits related to opening businesses, and streamlining of permit procedures/requirements.

3. Discussion

- a. Where are the gaps in regulatory and procedural framework that can be improved for more comprehensive and efficient practice of environment protection?
 - b. What are the points of reference/cross-check that can be improved for more thorough and efficient review/monitoring/enforcement?
 - c. What tools and resources would your department need to be more vigilant on EJ issues?
 - d. Are there any other concurrent efforts that we can coordinate/collaborate?
 - e. Examples: ordinance amendments, business license referral checklist, streamlining permit processing, CEQA review and referrals, enforcement, etc.
- 4. Clean up sites
 - a. Standards are established regardless of EJ and location. Information about clean up standard should be included already (when case is submitted?)
 - b. From EJ perspective: if there are other contaminated sites nearby, what types of clean up happened.
- 5. Carpenter-Persley-Tanner Hazardous Substances Account Act (Health & Safety code 25300, Division 20, Chapter 6.8)
 - a. Applied to new or expanding facilities for treatment and storage of hazardous waste. Compensation program for any losses or injuries directly related to release of hazardous substances.
 - b. Specifies public participation process for government agencies to develop policies or guidelines for evaluating toxicity of chemicals.
 - c. No enforcement mechanism for compliance with Tanner Act.
- 6. Coordination
 - a. Referrals
 - i. Need a list of contacts and departments for internal process (i.e., if Haz waste potential, report to xxx in xxx section, xxx Department.)
 - ii. Need buy-in from departments for the 'will' to do the permits/referrals.
 - iii. Need to develop working relationships, maybe through quarterly meeting to review the current process, etc.
 - iv. Create a checklist to ensure proper referrals for permit (paper process vs. centralized database?)
 - v. How can we better coordinate within the County? MOU? New technology?
 - vi. TTC is in a process of developing questionnaire for Business Registration process.
 - vii. Is this for specific types of businesses, or general enviro stats for all businesses? → combination of types of facilities and types of toxins.
 - viii. What's the best way to identify businesses/permits?
 - 1. (CUPA) Questionnaire (it could be a lot of industries based on chemicals they use/store)
 - 2. (DPW) if it is a development project requiring EIR, DPW is already checking and providing requirements. (new facilities & retrofit)
 - 3. Wants to know business ownership changes.

- b. Permit Assistance Center
 - i. Could help applicants with a rather complicated permitting process, which department/agencies to contact, etc.
 - ii. Helps target appropriate land uses early on in the process.
 - iii. Example: school was legally established but located next to chrome plating facility. Impacts from surrounding land uses were not considered in permitting process.
 - iv. Where will intervention happen? - Start at both business license process and DRP review process, as they are separate procedures.
 - v. The intervention should be addressed for both commercial/businesses and redevelopment/new construction.
- c. Review/approval process or policy
 - i. History of noncompliance? No renewal? How much teeth to add into policy? What do we recommend to the Board?
- d. Data and mapping
 - i. Identify which industries impact surrounding areas of sensitive receptors.
 - ii. Filter data by low → high risk (within 1000 ft, etc)
- e. Coordinated outreach (DCBA)
 - i. Conducting outreach for the new Minimum Wage Ordinance.
 - ii. Can combine with Green Zones outreach (flyer distribution, etc.)
- f. Messaging
 - i. Violators vs those out of compliance vs those that are trying
 - ii. Businesses that are 'in compliance' want more rigorous enforcement in the area.
 - iii. Setting the tone: "LA County is organized"
 - iv. Utilize P10s, ex. Of USEPA Environmental Stewardships.
 - v. Identify noncompliance businesses, then give support for compliance.
 - vi. Consider the value of the industry and its economic impacts for the county.
 - vii. Façade improvements, # of employees.
- g. Enforcement & Violations
 - i. No proactive enforcement currently.
 - ii. Limited resources for enforcement. MOUs would be helpful for coordination.
 - iii. DCBA: enforcement scheme for minimum wage (language, fees, forms/processes)
 - iv. Time /approach on inspections are different in each department. Need discussion before coordinate inspection schedules.
- 7. Small business support programs
 - a. SCAQMD Small Business Assistance Program
 - i. Free technical consultation for 100 or less employees or annual gross revenues up to \$5 mil. Free on-site, over-the-counter, or phone consultation.
 - ii. Permit & Compliance Help
 - b. Cal OSHA Compliance Assistance Inspections
- 8. Next Steps

- a. DRP to email spreadsheet to solicit input on key business types and business activities that would require referrals.
- b. DRP to send a rough draft flow chart of permitting process to solicit input.
- c. Stay tuned for August meeting scheduling.